

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are now pending in the application -- claims 34 and 35 having been added herein. Minor amendments have been made to the specification and claims to simply overcome the objections to the specification and rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Applicant's representative would like to thank Examiner Ricci for the courtesies extended during a telephonic interview on May 25, 2004 to discuss the present application. Based upon that discussion, as summarized herein, the undersigned believes that an agreement was reached as to the patentability of the invention as recited in the claims over the art of record.

SPECIFICATION

Applicant have amended the specification to correct a typographical error noted in the original application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this change be noticed and allowed without any objection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The amendment for claim 24 merely corrects an informality in the original claim. More specifically, the original claim did not specifically provide antecedent basis for said camming surface in as much as it incorrectly depended from claim 21 instead of claim 23. Applicant has amended claim 24 to depend from claim 23, wherein a camming surface is first introduced. Subsequently, amending claim 24 also provides antecedent basis for claim 25, which is dependent on claim 24. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejection of claims 24 and 25.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barrie et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,669,586). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant submits that claims 21 and 23 as originally filed are distinguishable from Barrie. Specifically, Barrie does not teach a blade travel path wherein the rear tip of the blade moves along a first section generally parallel to the longitudinal axis and then along a second section radially outwardly from the longitudinal axis. Looking specifically to Barrie's Figures 3 and 4 and Column 3, lines 4 through 10, Barrie appears to disclose a blade path that moves radially outwardly immediately upon reward deployment. In particular, as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4, the rear edge 17e of blade 17 abuts the camming surface 13c of the body 13 when in the stowed or retracted

position. Thus, as the blade moves rearward, camming surface 13c would force the blade radially outward. While Figure 1 appears to show a gap between the blade and the body, it does not disclose structure which provides the recited blade travel path. Moreover, the specification provides no further clarification on this point. Applicants have amended claim 21 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the structure of the present invention which provides this aspect of the invention. In view of the foregoing remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejection of claims 21 and 23.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 22 and 25 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims 21 and 24. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that claims 22 and 25 should now be in condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS

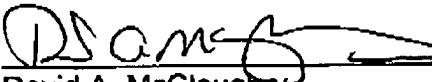
New claims 34 and 35 which depend directly from claims 1 and 26 respectfully have been added herein. Applicants submit that these claims are supported by the application as originally filed and thus are not directed to new subject matter. Favorable consideration of these new claims is requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial No. 10/706,736

Page 13 of 13